

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please amend the paragraph from lines 18 to 23 as follows:

~~It is an object of the invention~~ Processes are described herein to enable network elements to set up SVC-paths in a flexible, dynamic and anticipatory way in a network according to the traffic volume, and to release SVC-paths again when traffic volume is decreasing. ~~The object is achieved by the invention as set forth in the claims and the description.~~

Page 6, please delete line 10.

Page 6, please amend the paragraph from lines 11 to 14 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 1, the centrally located connection control functions comprise the AAL type 2 connection processing (AAL2 control) and the SVC connection processing (SVC control). The SVC connections represent the paths of AAL type 2 connections.

Page 7, please amend the paragraph from lines 17 to 22, as follows:

~~The figure below shows 4~~ Referring to Fig. 2, four hierarchical data object levels are shown, beginning with accesses via virtual path connections and virtual channel connections (the AAL type 2 paths), down to the AAL type 2 channels. It is not intended here to give a complete data model. A few characteristics, as far as AAL type 2 path switching is concerned, shall however be highlighted.

Page 8, please delete line 9.

Page 8, please amend the paragraph from lines 16 to 21 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 3, the decision when to initiate a new path setup or path release is made by AM on a per call basis ~~base~~, that is, whenever AM is called by AAL2 control to allocate or deallocate resources for an AAL type 2 connection setup or release. AM compares the currently consumed path capacity (accumulated cell rates, number of AAL type 2 channels) with given threshold values.

Page 8, please delete line 31.

Page 10, please amend the paragraph from lines 21 to 23 as follows:

Referring to Fig. 4, the requests to connect or disconnect paths are initiated by the leg handlers, and addressed to a connection resource agent (CRA), residing within SVC control.

Page 10, please delete line 24.

Page 11, please amend the paragraph from lines 10 to 18, as follows:

Similar aspects matter when disconnecting a path as shown in Fig. 5 ~~the figure below~~. Certain path setup scenarios may require and automatic setup repeat attempt, or an alternative routing attempt. Due to performance reasons, the outgoing leg (represented by LH and an ESIS

instance) are released simultaneously to setting up a new leg (with new LH and ESIS instances). Considering the activities towards the periphery, this means that disconnect requests are likely to be still on the way, when another connect request arrives at CRA.

Page 11, please delete line 19.

Page 11, please amend the paragraph from lines 21 to 23, as follows:

~~The figure below~~ Fig. 6 shows a (simplified) traffic flow through the ATM switching fabrics after having connected LICs to AAL type 2 server cards.

Page 11, please delete line 24.

Page 12, please amend the paragraph from lines 5 to 6, as follows:

We are now prepared to set up and release SVC paths ~~pathes~~. The table ~~below gives of~~ Fig. 7 shows a list of parameters used in ~~the~~ message flow charts.

Page 12, please delete line 7.

Page 12, please delete line 9.

Page 12, please amend the paragraph from lines 11 to 23, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 8, the decision to set up a new path is made by AM, triggered by an AM\_ALLOCATE\_IND from AAL 2 control, and is based on the implemented threshold mechanism. AM allocates the resources requested by AAL2 control, and determines that the threshold value is exceeded. Hence, AM sends an SV\_SETUP\_REQ message to the leg controller (LC) of SVC control. The message contains the source and target network elements ~~element~~, represented by calling and called party numbers ~~number~~. ~~These informations are given~~ This information is provided to AM by AAL2 control, and ~~must be~~ is passed on to SVC control to ~~assure~~ ensure that AAL type 2 connections and paths ~~pathes~~ take the same route through the transport network. Furthermore, the message contains the connection characteristics, which are externally signaled, and which are needed to perform path switching towards the periphery.

Page 13, please delete line 19.

Page 13, please amend the paragraph from lines 21 to 23, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 9, ESIS receives a SETUP message from its protocol handler, decodes the SETUP message ~~it~~, includes the access, and sends a CMI\_SETUP to the leg handler of SVC control.

Page 14, please delete line 11.

Page 14, please amend the paragraph from lines 14 to 17, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 10, AM deallocates resources for an AAL type 2 connection, and finds out that the path resources fell below the release threshold value. AM calls the leg controller of SVC control to release an inactive path.

Page 15, please delete line 8.

Page 15, please amend the paragraph from lines 10 to 11, as follows:

Referring to Fig. 11, ESIS receives a RELEASE message from its adjacent network element, decodes the RELEASE message it, and forwards a CMI\_RELEASE message to LH.